

**JESS DURAN's AMERICAN LITERATURE FINAL EXAM REVIEW  
MAY 2010, Tomas Alva Edison**

Term	Definition
1. Metaphor: a comparison of two things without using like or as	Example: She slept the dead sleep (Iliad)
2. Simile: a comparison of two things using like or as	Example: She was as beautiful as Aphrodite herself
3. Personification: Giving non human objects human like characteristics	Example: The birds were arguing with themselves.
4. Hyperbole: An extreme exaggeration	Example: I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
5. Compare/Contrast: Finding similarities and differences	Example: The differences between the two shirts is that one is blue and one is purple. But they're both made from cotton.
6. Problem/Solution: Finding the problem and its solution	Example: The problem is that two friends are fighting. The solution is that they target what they're fighting about and talk it over.
7. Cause/Effect: Finding the cause and how it effects a situation	Example: the cause is that she feels alone. The effect is that her school work and grades slip
8. Mood: the emotion fo a pieces of writing that is depicted by the description of the setting	Example: The room was painted a bright yellow and there were posters of smiley faces all over the walls. Mood: Happy
9. Tone: the way in which words might be said; the emotion conveyed by words; the attitude behind the words	Example: Oh I absolutely adore school! Especially the way the teachers degrade us. Tone: sarcastic
10. Connotation: the feeling or emotion one gets when they see a word	Example: His eyes were lit with a fiery passion. Fiery connotes to strong or hatred
11. Biblical Allusion: when the author makes an allusion to the Bible	Example: She was his forbidden fruit.
12. Classical Allusion: when the author makes an allusion to Greek mythology	Example: He was wise like Athena
13. Historical Allusion: when the author makes an allusion to historical figures or events	Example: He was as fake as George Washington's teeth.

14. Symbolism: when an object represents an abstract idea	Example: The America Flag represents freedom and opportunity
15. Dramatic Irony: When the audience knows information that the characters do not	Example: Audience knew Desdemona did not cheat on Othello.
16. Situational Irony: When one character's actions create another character who directly affects them	Example: Batman's need for revenge caused the Joker's creation
17. Verbal Irony: when irony is present in what someone says	Example: No, you're not going to school today. I'm just getting you up at five in the morning so that you can be wide awake for the day.
18. American Dream Archetype	A man comes from nothing, works really hard, and becomes incredibly successful and wealthy

II.

## READING SELECTIONS

\*Please make sure you re-read the following:

STORY	AUTHOR
Sound of Thunder	Ray Bradbury
Night	Elie Wiesel
Witness for the Prosecution	Agatha Christie
Biography/ Getting a Job	Maya Angelou
Harrison Bergerson	Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
Montgomery Boycott	Coretta Scott King
The Girl Death Left Behind	Lurlene McDaniel
Twelfth Night	William Shakespeare
The Pit and the Pendulum	Edgar Allan Poe

III.

## IDENTIFY

The following list of key terms in literature is intended primarily for TAE students in my 4<sup>th</sup> Grade literature classes, whom I've taught since the beginning of the school year. Those of you who took literature with Jennie or are taking literature with me now, should be familiar with the terms, although you may be interested in looking at some of the items or exploring the Internet for these terms. This list is **NOT** exhaustive, and there may also be additional and/or slightly different definitions of the terms in my own lectures (or, for that matter, in the lectures of other teachers). For a more detailed glossary of literary terms, students are urged to consult your literature books, or dictionary.

Identify the following:

- 1). Prose
- 2). Fiction
- 3). Non-fiction
- 4). Art
- 5). What is literature
- 6). A Novel
- 7). A Short Story
- 8). A Play
- 9). A Narrative Poem
- 10). A Plot Line (Plot, exposition of events, rising action, climax and falling action)
- 11). Elements of narrative – Characters (Primary, Secondary and Environmental)
- 12). Elements of suspense – atmosphere, mood, foreshadowing, stakes and risks.
- 13). Allegories
- 14). Poetry/Poems: Stanza, line, rhythm, tone, sound, rhyme, meter,
- 15). Figures of Speech: metaphor and simile
- 16). Myths and Legends
- 17). Biography, autobiography, and essay
- 18). Imagery

- 19). Internal and external conflict
- 20). Elements of drama – action, dialogue, stage directions, acting directions, convention
- 21). Dramatic genres: Tragedy, Comedy, Farse
- 22). Allusions and puns

IV.

## READING AND COMPREHENSION

The purpose of reading is to connect the ideas on the page to what you already know. If you don't know anything about a subject, then pouring words of text into your mind is like pouring water into your hand. You don't retain much. For example, try reading these numbers:

**7516324 This is hard to read and remember.**

**751-6324 This is easier because of chunking.**

**123-4567 This is easy to read because of prior knowledge and structure.**

Similarly, if you like sports, then reading the sports page is easy. You have a framework in your mind for reading, understanding and storing information.

In the exam, you will be asked to read a **NEW** selection, and analyze its literary elements. Please review and learn the elements of grammar, usage, and style. You will also be given an opportunity to express and support your responses to various types of texts.

Please, if you have a questions email me at [ProfesorJess@gmail.com](mailto:ProfesorJess@gmail.com).

Bests,  
Jess Duran